

FLASH GORDON

Registered U S Patent Office



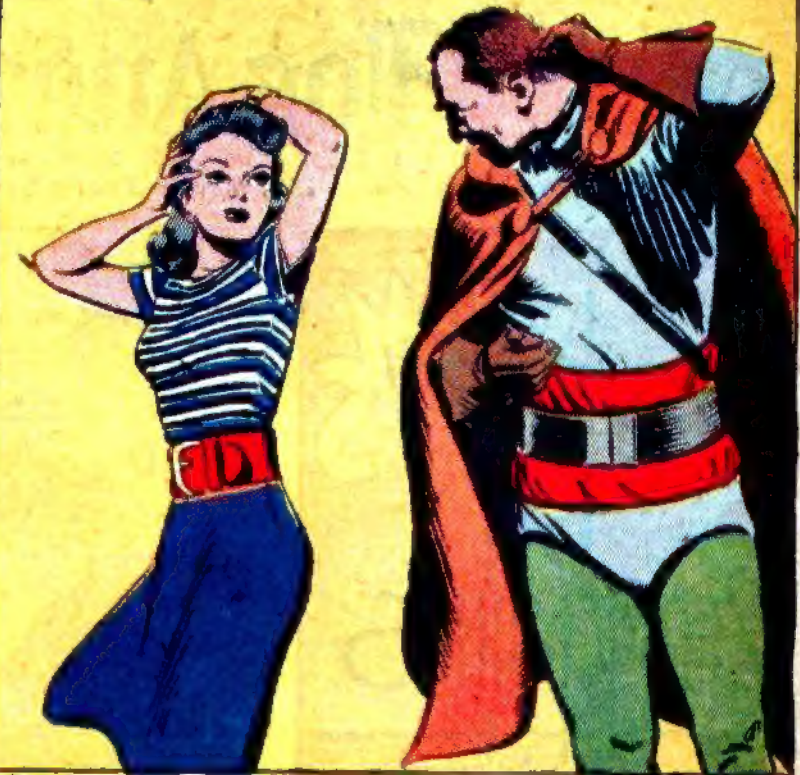
SURRENDERING HIS ARSENAL TO THE VICTORS, KING RADOM SLYLY WINKS AT HIS ORDNANCE CHIEF, GIAN: "THESE ARE ALL OUR WEAPONS, FLASH GORDON."



FLASH SPOTS THE LACK OF ATOM-SPLITTERS. RELUCTANTLY, GIAN LEADS THEM TO A HUGE UNDERGROUND VAULT. ZARKOV CHUCKLES: "THERE'S OUR HEAVY ARTILLERY TO OVERTHROW KANG, THE CRUEL!"



DALE GOES TO WORK ON THE BIG, SHY GIAN. "WE NEED STRONG, CLEVER MEN LIKE YOU TO CONQUER KANG. I'LL BET YOU MAKE SOME WONDERFUL SMALL GUNS TOO." GIAN STAMMERS, "W-WELL, OUR ATOM-FIRE PISTOLS ARE...!"



RADOM SPUTTERS. "QUIET, TRAITOR!" FLASH CUTS IN, HARSHLY. "YOU'RE THE TRAITOR, RADOM, CHISELING AND HOLDING OUT ON YOUR OWN PEACE TERMS-- SHOW US THE ATOM-FIRE GUNS, GIAN."



"MY GUNS SET FIRE TO ANYTHING, FROM METALS TO PEOPLE," GIAN BOASTS, DEMONSTRATING ON A ROCK WALL. ZARKOV GASPS IN SCIENTIFIC TRIUMPH. "IT MUST CHANGE THE ATOM STRUCTURE, SO THE TARGET OXIDIZES." FLASH GRINS, "IT'LL BURN KANG UP!"



SURE OF HIS WEAPONS, FLASH STARTS TO RAISE HIS ARMY, VISCERING TO ALL MONGO: "FREEMEN, ARISE! MEET ME AT THE BORDER! I'M COMING TO FREE YOU FROM THE TYRANT... YOUR TIME IS SHORT, KANG!"

NEXT WEEK: KANG'S HEAVY BLOW.

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IT IS A SMALL, BUT STRANGELY POWERFUL ARMY THAT FLASH LEADS TOWARD KANG'S BORDERS.

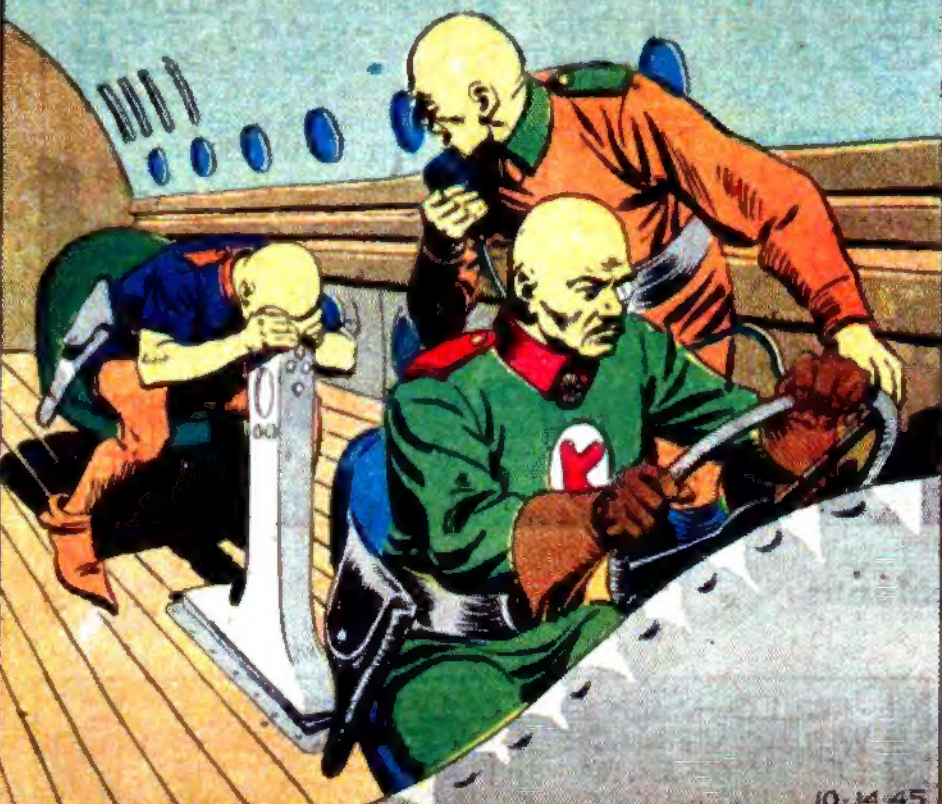


KANG'S CENSORSHIP AND HIS SECRET POLICE CANNOT STOP THE PEOPLE FROM JOINING FLASH. "HE'S COMING BACK! -- WE'LL BE FREE AGAIN! -- I WAS IN FLASH'S ARMY BEFORE. LET'S GO!"

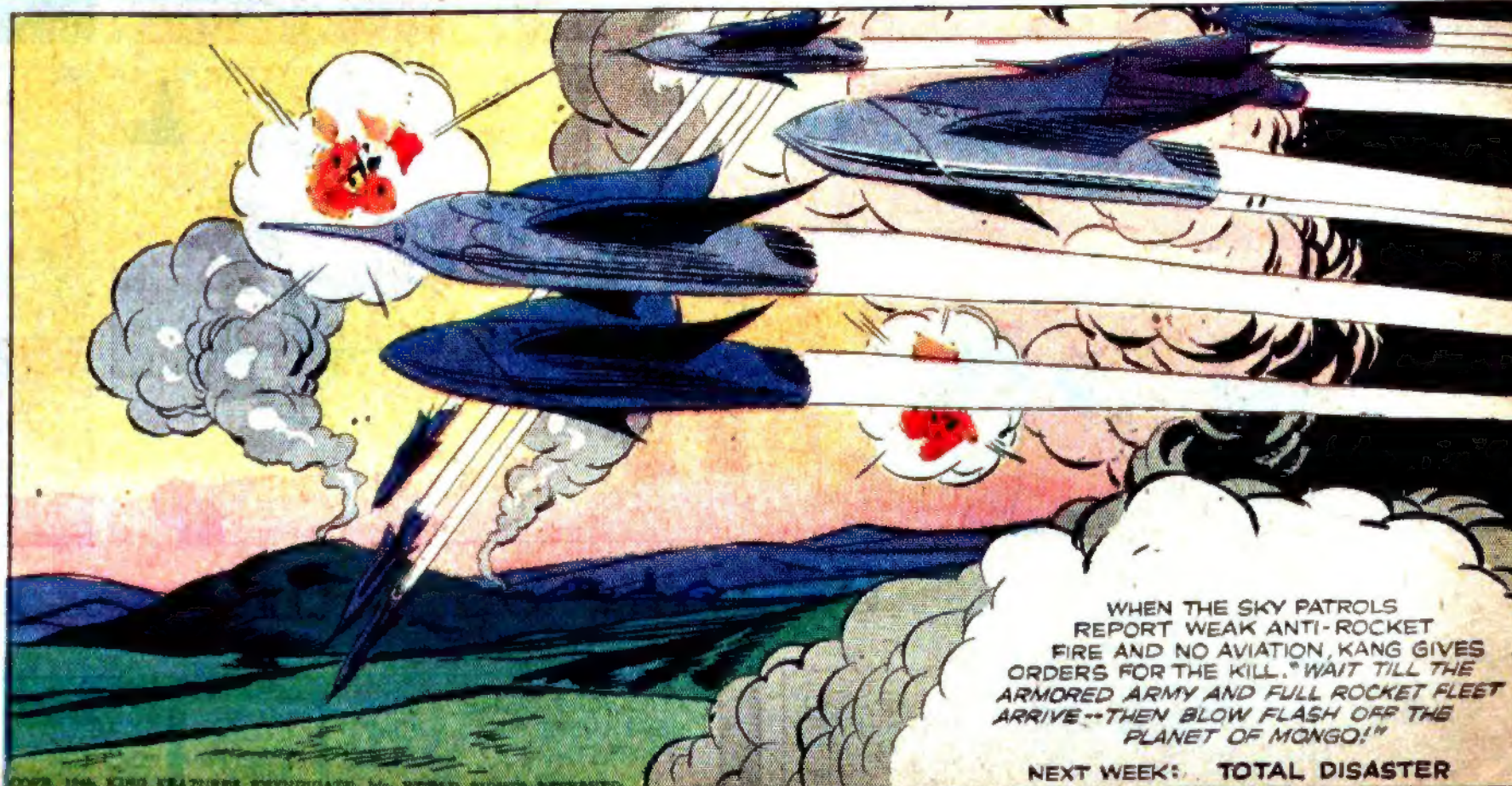
"THE PEOPLE ARE RISING, FOLLOWING FLASH." A COURIER WARNS, BUT KANG SLAYS THE BEARER OF BAD NEWS "YOU LYING COWARD! THAT'S WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO ALL WHO FOLLOW FLASH!"



KANG IS BRUTAL, BUT NO FOOL. HIS SCOUT-ROCKETS CRUISE THE BORDERS. THEIR INVIS-RAYS SPOT FLASH'S LITTLE ARMY NEAR THE VALLEY OF SMOKING CAVES.



10-14-45



WHEN THE SKY PATROLS REPORT WEAK ANTI-ROCKET FIRE AND NO AVIATION, KANG GIVES ORDERS FOR THE KILL. "WAIT TILL THE ARMORED ARMY AND FULL ROCKET FLEET ARRIVE -- THEN BLOW FLASH OFF THE PLANET OF MONGO!"

NEXT WEEK: TOTAL DISASTER

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FLASH GORDON

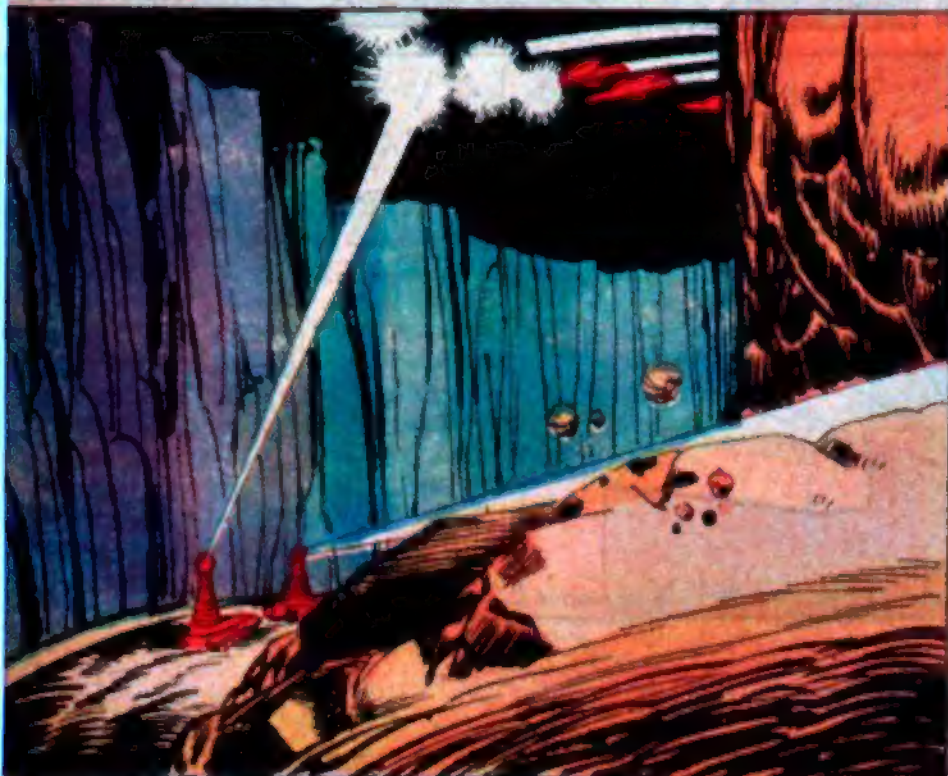
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KANG, THE CRUEL, GLOATS OVER HIS BATTLE VISI-MAP: "SEE MY ROCKET FLEETS AND SPEED TANKS CLOSE IN ON THE TRAPPED REBEL, FLASH!"

FROM GROUND AND SKY, KANG'S HATRED SPITS DEATH AT FLASH'S HIDE-OUTS IN THE VALLEY OF SMOKING CAVES--

ALL KANG'S SHELLS AND ROCKET BOMBS EXPLODE HIGH ABOVE THE VALLEY WHERE THEY DO NO DAMAGE. "YOUR ATOM-SPLITTING PROTECTO-SCREEN WORKS PERFECTLY," FLASH CONGRATULATES GIAN.



WHEN KANG'S WHOLE FORCE IS COMMITTED, FLASH LEADS HIS MOBILE ATOM-TOWERS FROM UNDERGROUND. THEIR ATOM-SPLITTING BEAMS EXPLODE KANG'S TANKS AND ROCKETS LIKE STRINGS OF FIRECRACKERS. 10-21-45



FLASH'S SHARPSHOOTERS MOP UP WITH ATOM-FIRE PISTOLS AND RIFLES.

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AND OFFICERS, WHO REMEMBER YEARS OF FREEDOM UNDER FLASH, SEIZE CONTROL OF KANG'S SCATTERED ARMIES! "CALLING FLASH. - WE WANT TO JOIN YOU!"

NEXT WEEK: KANG'S REVENGE.

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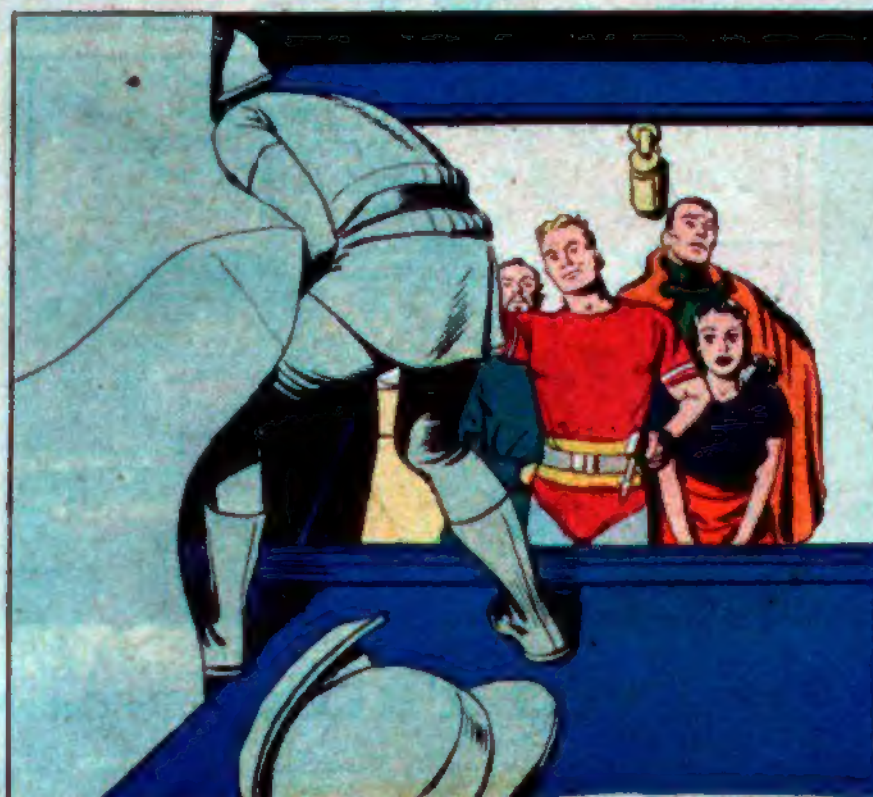
KANG'S DEFEAT BY FLASH'S ATOM-WEAPONS IS SO COMPLETE THAT FLASH'S ADVANCE TO THE CAPITAL IS A TRIUMPHAL MARCH, WITH THE PEOPLE CHEERING FOR THEIR NEW FREEDOM.



KANG'S OWN COURTIERS TRY TO SEIZE HIM FOR FLASH, HOPING TO WIN MERCY THEY DON'T DESERVE. BUT KANG RUTHLESSLY REPAYS THEIR TREACHERY WITH HIS FLAME-PISTOL.



KANG FLEES WITH TWO OF HIS INNER CIRCLE, THE TORTURER, GRUSOM, AND THE BEAUTIFUL, POWER-MAD EVILA WHO'D RATHER BE QUEEN OF THE UNDERGROUND THAN A NOBODY IN FLASH'S FREE LAND.



FLASH ENTERS KANG'S PALACE, TO PROCLAIM THE FREE WORLD OF MONGO. HE SAYS: "PUT THE TYRANT'S THRONE IN THE NATIONAL MUSEUM. THEN WE'LL CATCH KANG AND PUT HIM THERE, TOO!"



FLASH'S PEACE VISICAST TO ALL MONGO IS INTERRUPTED BY A SECRET STATION: "YOU'LL NEVER KNOW PEACE! I'LL SABOTAGE YOU FROM UNDERGROUND. I'LL TURN YOUR OWN ATOM-WEAPONS AGAINST YOU. KANG WILL SIT ON HIS THRONE AGAIN!"

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NEXT WEEK: THE HUNT

FLASH GORDON

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THE TYRANT, KANG, IS NOW A HUNTED BEAST, AS ALL LOYAL FREEMAN AID THE SEARCH. ONE MAN STOPS A PASSING POLICE CAR--



DICTO, HEAD OF THE NEW MONGO BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, REPORTS TO FLASH: "WE HAVE A LEAD. THIS CITIZEN, TRAITO, SAYS HE SAW KANG ROCKETING TOWARD DESERTA!"



SCIENCE CHECKS THE INFORMER. PUT UNDER VERIGAS, TRAITO HELPLESSLY BABBLER THE TRUTH: "KANG PAID ME TO LIE. HE AND GRUSOM AND EVILA ARE HIDING IN THE CITY. NO BODY KNOWS WHERE."



FLASH AND DICTO RACE TO SEARCH EVILA'S TOWN HOUSE, WHERE THEY FIND HER LOVELY TWIN SISTER, DARLIA. SHE SAYS SINCERELY, "I HAVEN'T SEEN HER. I'D HELP IF I COULD. IT BREAKS MY HEART THAT EVILA HAS CHOSEN TO GO WITH KANG, THE CRUEL!"



BUT EVILA IS NOT FAR AWAY. IN A HIDEOUT KANG HAD LONG USED FOR HIS WICKED DOINGS, THEY PLOT TO STEAL FLASH'S ATOM-WEAPONS "BUT FIRST, GRUSOM, SILENCE THAT BABBLING FOOL, TRAITO. HE MAY REMEMBER THIS SPOT."



THE TORTURER KNOWS SECRET PASSAGES IN MONGO PRISON THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT HASN'T DISCOVERED. TRAITO IS SPEECHLESS WITH FRIGHT THE INSTANT BEFORE HE BECOMES SPEECHLESS FOREVER.

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FLASH GORDON

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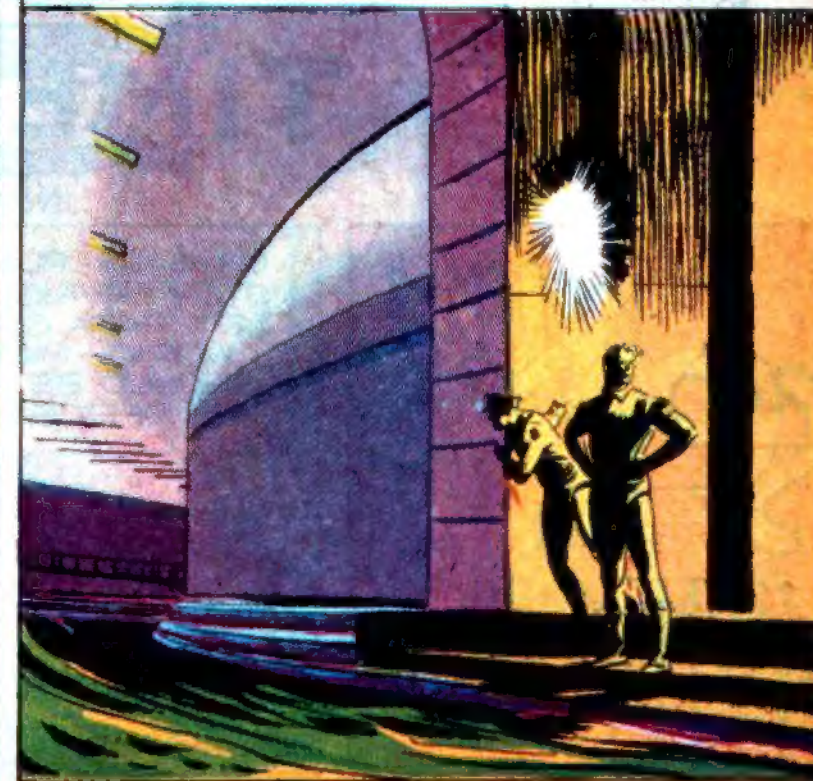
DICTO, CHIEF OF THE MONGO BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, REPORTS THE BAD NEWS: "HERE'S THE LOCKED CELL WHERE WE FOUND OUR WITNESS, TRAITOR, STRANGLER -- WITH KANG'S SEAL ON THE BODY!"



WITH MINIRADAR AND SONOSCOPE, MBI SCIENCE SOON LOCATES THE SECRET PASSAGE KANG'S TORTURER USED FOR HIS VENGEANCE MISSION.



BUT THE NEWLY DISCOVERED HONEYCOMB OF PRISON PASSAGES GIVES NO CLUE TO KANG'S PRESENT HIDEOUT. IT LEADS INTO THE SEWERS. DICTO SAYS, GRIMLY, "FROM HERE THE KILLER COULD HAVE GONE ANYWHERE UNDER MINGO CITY."



MEANTIME, EVILA PAYS A SURPRISE VISIT TO HER TWIN SISTER: "WE KNOW FLASH WAS HERE. WHAT DID HE KNOW?-- WHAT DID YOU TELL HIM?" DARLIA SAYS SADLY, "NOTHING. I DON'T EVER WANT TO KNOW WHERE YOU ARE HIDING. BUT, DARLING, PLEASE GIVE THIS UP-- LEAVE KANG!"



EVILA ESCAPES JUST AHEAD OF MBI MEN WATCHING THE HOUSE. "WHERE'D SHE GO? WHERE'S SHE HIDING?" DARLIA SOBS, "I DON'T KNOW. I CAN'T TELL YOU!"

DICTO ARRIVES: "SHE MUST KNOW SOMETHING. PUT HER UNDER VERIGAS AND GET THE TRUTH." BUT FLASH WINS DARLIA'S LINDYING GRATITUDE AND PERHAPS LOVE WHEN HE SAYS: "NO. I BELIEVE HER, AND I'LL NOT MAKE A GIRL BETRAY HER SISTER."



NEXT WEEK: THE MIGHTY ATOM.

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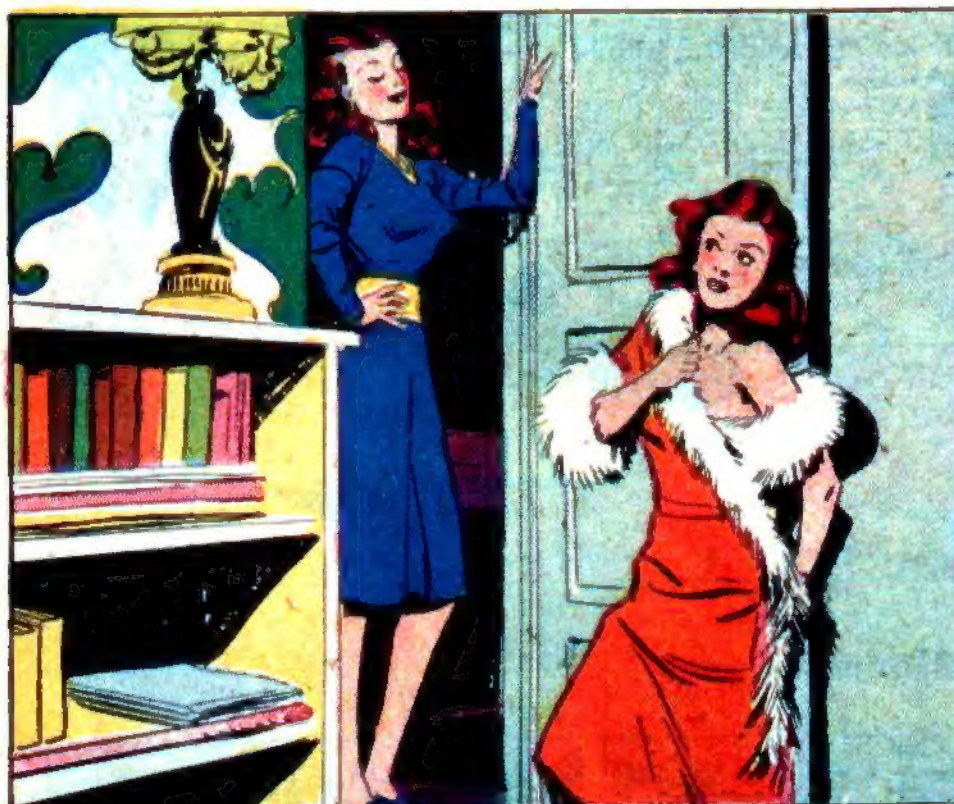
FLASH INSPECTS THE GIANT POWER PLANT ZARKOV IS FINISHING; THESE ATOM-POWER UNITS WILL BRING PROSPERITY AND COMFORT TO ALL OUR CITIZENS. GREAT WORK, ZARKOV!"



DON'T FORGET IT'S MY KNOWLEDGE OF RADIUM AND ATOMICS THAT MAKES ALL THIS POSSIBLE," GIAN GRUMBLES. FLASH IS TOO UNSELFISH, HIMSELF, TO SEE WHAT A POWER-HUNGRY CHARACTER GIAN IS. HE SAYS, CASUALLY, "YES, OF COURSE."



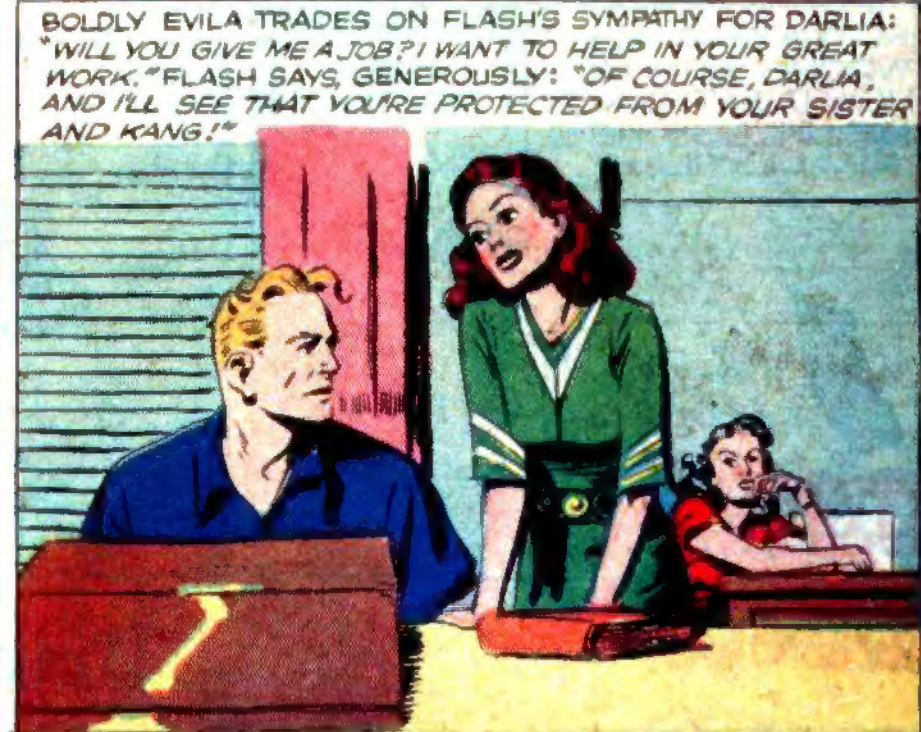
"GUARD OUR ATOM-MACHINES AS CAREFULLY AS OUR ATOM-WEAPONS," FLASH WARNS THE MBI CHIEF, DICTO. "UNTIL WE CATCH KANG, THESE ARE HIS LIKELIEST TARGETS."



THE SPIDER, KANG, IS NOT IDLE. HE SENDS EVILA TO HER TWIN'S HOUSE. DARLIA PROTESTS: "GO AWAY! I CAN'T HIDE YOU FROM FLASH AGAIN. HE'S WONDERFUL--I HOPE HE CATCHES KANG!"



AT EVILA'S SIGNAL, GRUSOM SEIZES HER SISTER: "KANG WANTS TO SEE YOU, GIRL," AND WITHOUT A QUALM, EVILA STARTS DISGUIISING HERSELF AS DARLIA.



BOLDLY EVILA TRADES ON FLASH'S SYMPATHY FOR DARLIA: "WILL YOU GIVE ME A JOB? I WANT TO HELP IN YOUR GREAT WORK." FLASH SAYS, GENEROUSLY: "OF COURSE, DARLIA, AND I'LL SEE THAT YOU'RE PROTECTED FROM YOUR SISTER AND KANG!"

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11-18-45

NEXT WEEK: KANG'S FIRST VICTORY.

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DICTO, AS A DETECTIVE, AND DALE, AS A WOMAN SENSING A RIVAL, WARN FLASH AGAINST HIRING THE WELL-DISGUISED EVILA, BUT FLASH IS FIRM: "DARLIA IS FINE AND LOYAL, SHE WOULDN'T HELP KANG BY HIDING HER SISTER, BUT WAS TOO LOYAL TO BETRAY HER."



EVILA'S FIRST TREACHERY IS TO TELL KANG ABOUT THE ATOM-GUARDING SYSTEM. GRUSOM PROMPTLY SETS OUT TO STALK A LOYAL ATOM GUARD.

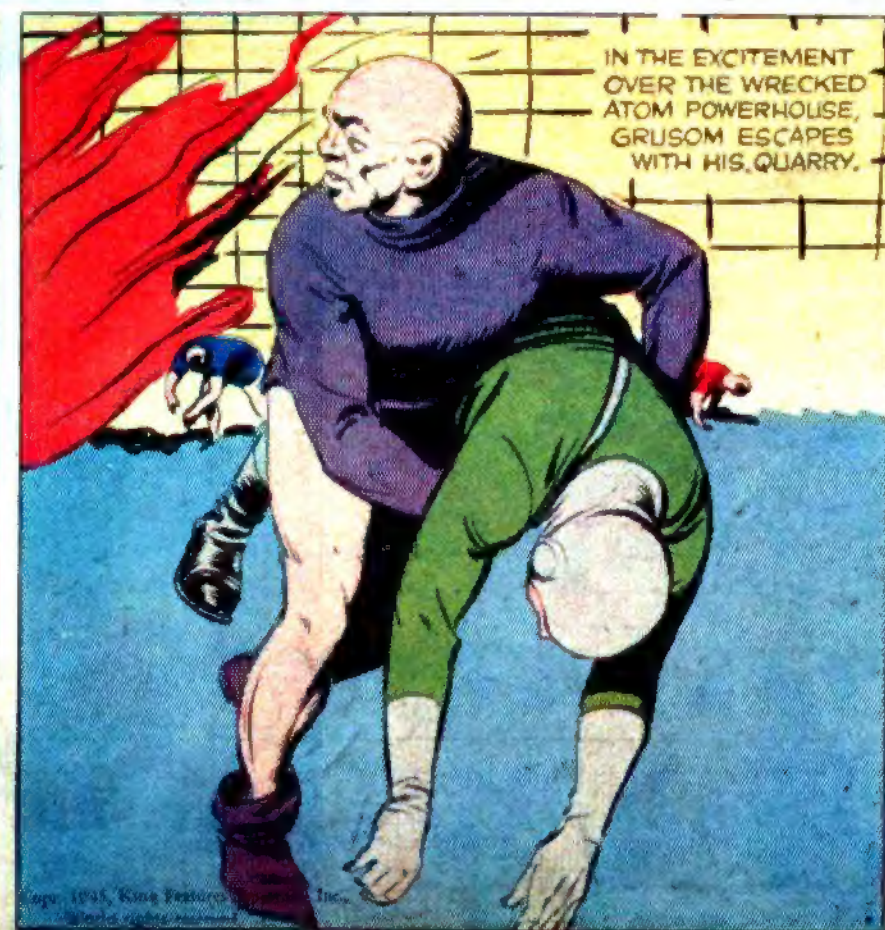


GRUSOM'S WHIP-LASSO CHOKES THE GUARD INTO QUICK, HELPLESS SILENCE.



LOYAL TO THE DEATH, THE GUARD MANAGES TO PULL HIS ATOM PISTOL, BUT THE ALL-POWERFUL SHOT GOES WILD, DESTROYING THE POWERHOUSE CORNER.

-11-25-45



IN THE EXCITEMENT OVER THE WRECKED ATOM POWERHOUSE, GRUSOM ESCAPES WITH HIS QUARRY.



DISGUISED WITH THE ATOM GUARD'S UNIFORM AND IDENTITY CARD, GRUSOM COLDLY DESTROYS THE EVIDENCE BEFORE TAKING HIS PLACE AMID FLASH'S PRICELESS ATOM SECRETS.

NEXT WEEK:
SPY HUNT

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FLASH INSPECTS THE ATOM POWERHOUSE WHICH GRUSOM HAS WRECKED: "THAT WAS AN ATOM BLAST. SOME KANGMAN HAS ONE OF OUR WEAPONS, DICTO! CHECK EVERY GUN AND GUARD!"



GRUSOM IS FINGERPRINTED. HE FEARS HIS TIME IS SHORT. BUT HE PLANS TO FIGHT HIS WAY BACK TO KANG WITH SOME ATOM WEAPONS.



BUT THE TRAITRESS, EVILA, SUCCESSFULLY PLAYING THE ROLE OF HER TWIN SISTER, VAMPS STUPID GIAN: "WHY THE CHECK-UP, HANDSOME?" GIAN BEAMS: "DON'T WORRY, BABY, WE'RE JUST TRACKING DOWN AN ATOM GUN SOME KANGMAN HAS STOLEN."



THE "LOYAL" EVILA WORKS OVERTIME -- AND CHANGES GRUSOM'S FINGERPRINT RECORD, SO HE WON'T BE EXPOSED.

12-2-45



GRUSOM SLIPS AWAY TO KANG'S HIDEOUT WHERE THE FALLEN TYRANT AMUSES HIMSELF BY TERRIFYING THE CAPTIVE, DARLIA: "YOU'LL NEVER LEAVE HERE ALIVE, GIRL. YOUR SISTER IS DOING TOO WELL IN YOUR PLACE."



"THAT SPORT CAN WAIT," KANG GLOATS, "GOOD WORK, GRUSOM. I WANT TO LEARN THE SECRET OF THIS ATOM GUN--IF I CAN DO IT WITHOUT BLOWING US ALL TO BLAZES!"

NEXT WEEK:

DISASTER

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"OUR RECORDS CHECK, THERE'S NO MISSING ATOM GUN," DICTO GROWLS, PUZZLED. BUT FLASH POINTS OUT, "AN ATOM-GUN DESTROYED THE POWER HOUSE. IF IT'S IN KANG'S HANDS, THAT GUN CAN BETRAY THE WHOLE SECRET OF ATOM POWER."



KANG HAS THE GUN, SEEKING ITS SECRET. DARLIA IS FRANTIC AT THE THOUGHT OF HER TRAITRESS SISTER, EVILA, MASQUERADING IN HER PLACE. SHE TRIES TO SEIZE THE FATEFUL WEAPON.



KANG LOCKS DARLIA IN THE DEEPEST CELLAR OF HIS TUNNELED HIDEOUT. "LITTLE FOOL, HOW DARE YOU INTERFERE IN THE WORK THAT WILL DECIDE THE FATE OF THE WHOLE PLANET OF MONGO! STAY HERE TILL I HAVE TIME FOR YOU!"

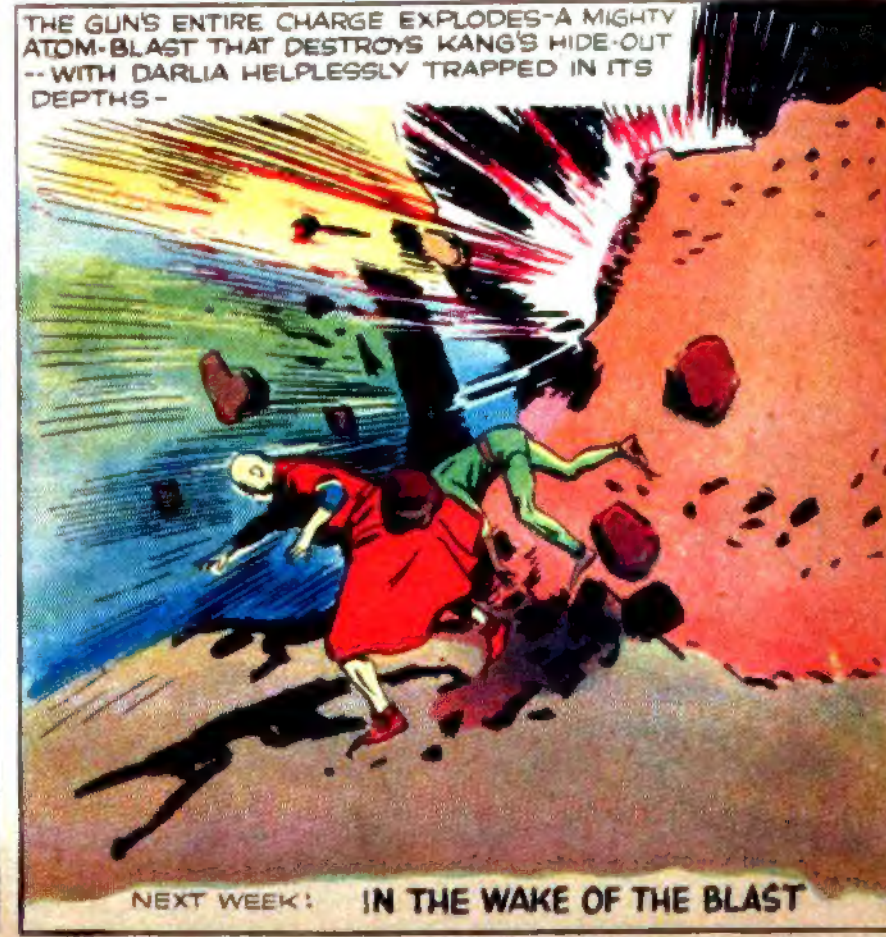


SLOWLY, SKILFULLY KANG OPENS THE PANDORA'S BOX OF THE ATOM-PISTOL, EXPOSING THE SPONGE-LEAD PACKING THAT SHIELDS ITS POTENT RADIO-ACTIVE CHARGE.



TOO LATE, KANG SEES THAT HE HAS TRIPPED A SECRET DEMOLITION DEVICE, PLANNED TO PROTECT THE ATOM-PISTOL'S SECRET. "RUN FOR YOUR LIFE, GRUSOM!" HE CRIES IN MORTAL TERROR.

12-9-45



THE GUN'S ENTIRE CHARGE EXPLODES-A MIGHTY ATOM-BLAST THAT DESTROYS KANG'S HIDE-OUT -- WITH DARLIA HELPLESSLY TRAPPED IN ITS DEPTHS--

NEXT WEEK: IN THE WAKE OF THE BLAST

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"CALLING ALL ROCKETS! ATOMIC EXPLOSION IN EAST MINGO CITY!" COMES THE MBI BROADCAST! A PATROL SHIP SPEEDS FLASH AND DICTO TO THE SCENE.



"I SAW THE BLAST-IT WAS AWFUL! AND LISTEN CHIEF DICTO, I SAW TWO MEN RUNNING AWAY. ONE WAS AN ATOM GUARD AND THE OTHER LOOKED LIKE THAT FIEND KANG, HIMSELF!"



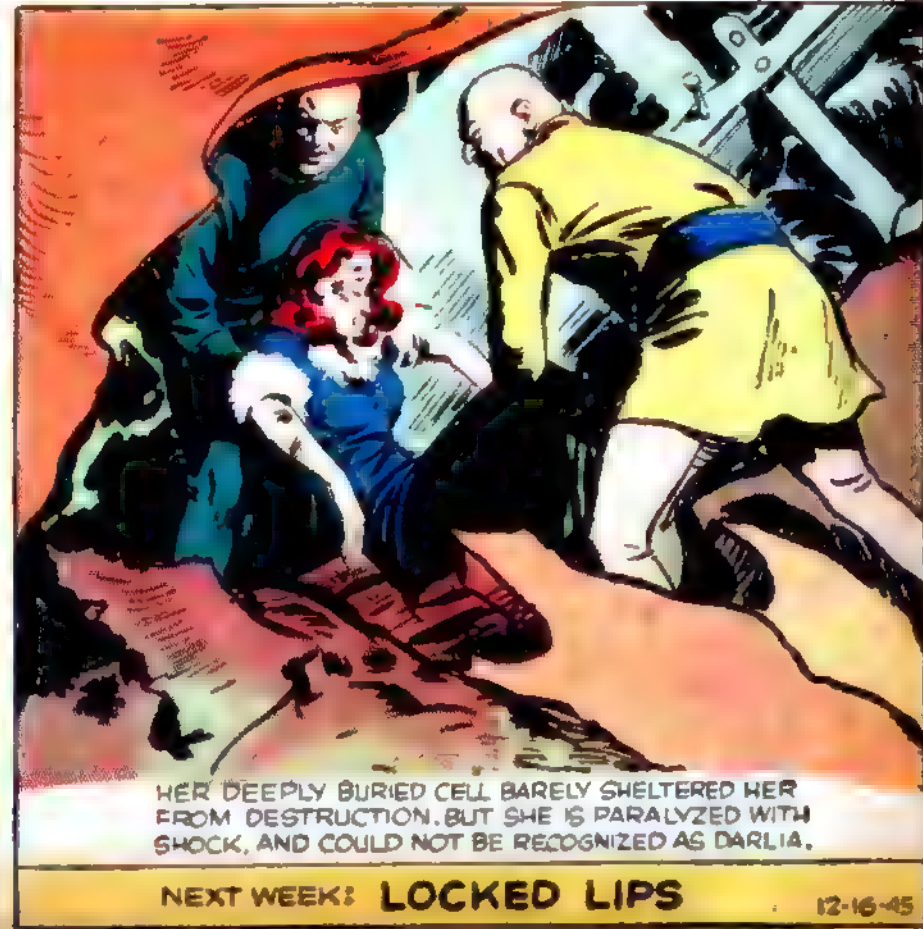
FROM THE MBI PATROL ROCKET, FLASH BROADCASTS URGENT ORDERS: "THROW THE DRAG-NET AROUND THIS SECTION. KANG WAS SEEN HERE JUST A FEW MINUTES AGO!"



FLASH GETS CONSTANT REPORTS OF THE SEARCH, WHILE THE MBI EXPERTS STUDY THE ACCIDENT. DICTO REPORTS: "THAT'S THE END OF THE MISSING ATOM GUN. THE WHOLE ATOM CHARGE WENT OFF-- THEY MUST HAVE BEEN TINKERING WITH IT!"



A FEEBLE MOANING BENEATH THE RUBBLE SPURS A SEARCH. THE PENETRO-RADAR SPOTS A DEEPLY BURIED CHAMBER, ONLY HALF-CAVED IN.



HER DEEPLY BURIED CELL BARELY SHELTERED HER FROM DESTRUCTION. BUT SHE IS PARALYZED WITH SHOCK, AND COULD NOT BE RECOGNIZED AS DARLIA.

NEXT WEEK: **LOCKED LIPS**

12-16-45

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KANG'S DISGUISE NEARLY TRAPS FLASH BOY GRUSOM'S ATOM-GUARD UNIFORM AND A SEARCHER'S STUPIDITY GIVE HAN A BREAK. GRUSOM BLUFFS: "I'M TAKING THIS FELLOW TO HEADQUARTERS FOR QUESTIONING!"



WITH HIS HIDEOUT WRECKED BY HIS OWN ATOM BLAST, KANG CAN THINK OF ONLY ONE REFUGE "WE'LL GO TO 'DARLIA'S' HOUSE. SHE'LL HELP US"



"BY TAO, ARE YOU HERE?" "IS EVILA'S WARM WEL COME." "GET OUT, I'M RISKING NECK ENOUGH" KANG SMILES: "YOUR PRETTY NECK IS NO SAFER OR MORE VALUABLE THAN MINE. WE'RE STAYING SO PLAY YOUR ROLE WELL, 'DARLIA' DEAR"

12-28-48



THE REAL DARLIA LIES SPEECHLESS AND HELP- LESS FROM THE ATOM BLAST. FLASH DECIDES: "SHE MUST BE EVILA, BUT NOT EVEN EVILA DE- SERVES SUCH A FATE. HELP HER, DOCTOR!"

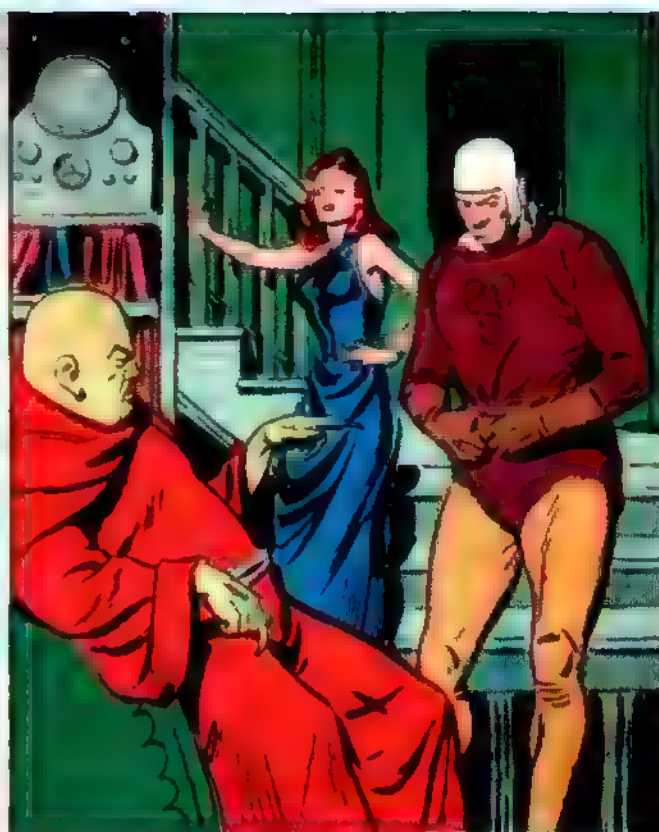


FLASH AND DICTO CALL ON THE DISGUISED EVILA "DARLIA, I'VE BAD NEWS FOR YOU YOUR SISTER, EVILA, WAS HURT IN KANG'S ATOM BLAST AND LIES SENSELESS IN MINGO HOSPITAL," FLASH SAYS, NOT GUESSING HOW BAD THE NEWS IS FOR 'DARLIA' AND THE HIDDEN KANG AND GRUSOM

NEXT WEEK: KILLER IN WHITE

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"DON'T TELL EVILA, BUT DARLIA MUST DIE BEFORE SHE CAN SPEAK AND BETRAY US ALL," KANG SAYS, SOFTLY. EVILA OVERHEARS: "I'M IN THIS, TOO. HERE'S MY PLAN."



EVILA IDENTIFIES HER SHOCK-PARALYZED SISTER: "YES, THAT'S POOR EVILA. I'VE BROUGHT MY OWN DOCTOR TO MAKE SURE SHE GETS TAKEN CARE OF," FLASH SAYS GENTLY, "YOU'RE A FINE GIRL, DARLIA."



LEFT ALONE WHILE THE MASQUERADING EVILA SEEKS AN ALIBI, "DOCTOR" GRUSOM PREPARES AN UN-SCHEDULED OPERATION TO STILL DARLIA'S LIPS FOREVER.



BUT FLASH, SENSING SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THE "DOCTOR," HAS BEEN WATCHING-----



EVILA TRIES TO INTERFERE, STILL PLAYING HER ROLE, BUT FLASH PROTECTS THE INVALID. EVILA CRIES: "WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING?--OH, BY TAO, YOU'RE NOT MY DOCTOR! WHO ARE YOU?"

HOW AWFUL! THAT KILLER MUST HAVE TAKEN MY DOCTOR'S PLACE! EVILA SOBS. FLASH SNAPS, "SKIP IT WE'LL GUARD YOUR SISTER NOW-- SHE WON'T BE ALONE AGAIN, EVEN WITH YOU--- TOO BAD THAT BRUTE ESCAPED--QUEER, WHY SHOULD KANG WANT TO KILL HER?" DARLIA LISTENS, DAZED AND PUZZLED.



NEXT WEEK:
IN THE ATOMIC AGE

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KANG BROWNS "DAR, AS SO WELL GUARDED WE'LL HAVE TO GET AN ATOM GUN AND BLAST THE HOSPITAL" GRUSUM GROWLS "LL KILL ME ANOTHER ATOM GUARD!" BUT EVILA SMILES "I THINK I'LL JUST WORK ON GIAN--"



MEANTIME, THE CITIZENS OF MONGO TELL PRESIDENT FLASH GORDON HOW PROSPEROUS AND HAPPY THE WIDESPREAD USE OF ATOM POWER IS MAKING THEM.

IN THE GREAT MONGO LABORATORIES, G'AN SHOWS HIS GENIUS AS AN ATOM SCIENTIST AND HIS WEAKNESS AS A MAN! "QUIT MESSING AROUND HERE ZARKOV, I'M RUNNING THINGS" THE GREAT ZARKOV SAYS MILDLY "I ONLY WANT TO HELP SPEED OUR DISCOVERIES"



"SEE WHAT I'VE DONE? I'M MONGO'S GREATEST SCIENTIST, AND I WANT A REWARD BEAUTIFUL" GIAN BRAGS DALE IS ALMOST AMUSED AT HIS CLUMSY ADVANCES: "DON'T BE SILLY, GIAN. I ADMIRE YOUR WORK-- BUT I DON'T LIKE YOU."



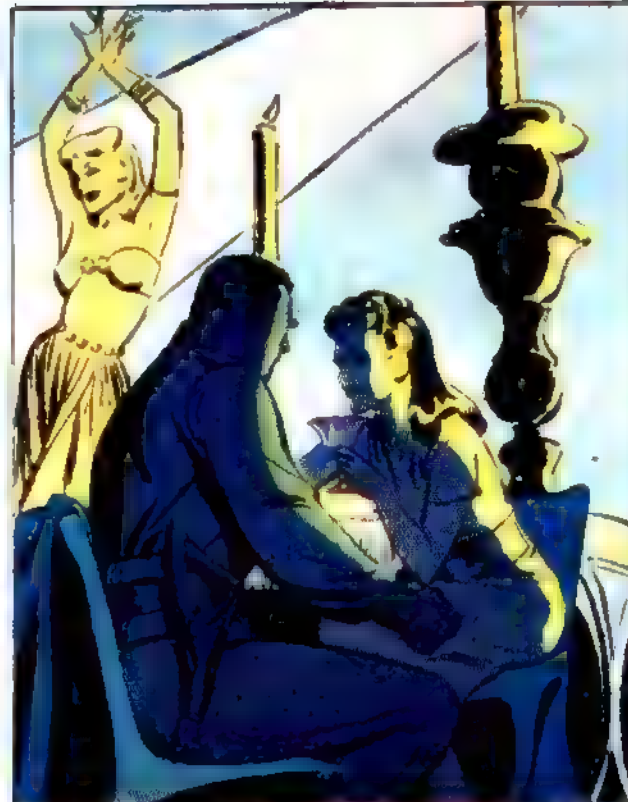
FLASH TELLS MONGO'S SENATORS! "THE ATOMIC AGE! ZARKOV AND GIAN HAVE MADE NEW ELEMENTS, BY-PRODUCTS OF URANIUM AND RADIUM, WHICH ARE CURING DISEASE AND MAKING BETTER ROCKETS AND MACHINES." HE DOES NOT SEE EVILA PLAYING ON GIAN'S JEALOUSY AND PRIDE.
NEXT WEEK: THE WEAK SPOT.

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THE DISGUISED EVILA CAJOLE AND TEMPTS BIG STUPID GIAN: "YOU'RE NOT APPRECIATED, FLASH IS JEALOUS OF YOU AND FAVORS HIS OWN MAN, ZARKON. GIAN GRUMBLES: "YOU'RE RIGHT, DARLIA. I'M THE GREATEST MAN IN THE ATOMIC AGE AND THEY TREAT ME LIKE DIRT."



IF YOU'D TAKE YOUR ATOM SECRETS TO KANG, HE'D SMASH FLASH GORDON AND MAKE YOU THE TOP MAN IN MONGG. EVILA VENTURES, BUT SHE'S OVERPLAYED HER HAND. GIAN GRUNTS "I'M BIGGER THAN KANG, I WON'T PLAY SECOND FIDDLE."



"YOU'RE RIGHT, YOU SHOULD BE ATOM KING YOURSELF, GIAN DEAR," EVILA TELLS THE POWER-DRUNK GIAN. "WHY DON'T YOU SMUGGLE OUT THE BEST WEAPONS AND MACHINES, AND MAKE MORE OF YOUR OWN?"

WHILE THE AMOROUS EVILA BEGUILDES HER GUEST, GRUSOM STEALS GIAN'S ATOM GUN. THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE IN SILENCING DARLIA AND HER DANGEROUS KNOWLEDGE.



A MYSTERIOUS EXPLOSION ROCKS THE HOSPITAL WHERE PARALYZED DARLIA WAS BEING TREATED. "NOW SHE'LL NEVER TELL THAT EVILA IS TAKING HER PLACE," KANG SMILES COLDLY.



113 46

KANG DOESN'T KNOW THAT HIS ATTEMPT ON THE HOSPITAL WAS IN VAIN. FOR FLASH HAD ORDERED THE SICK GIRL BROUGHT TO THE PALACE FOR EVEN BETTER CARE AND PROTECTION. SHE LIES SILENT, PUZZLING OUT HER SITUATION.

NEXT WEEK
THE BETRAYAL

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"MAYBE EVILA WAS HELPING KANG, BUT I STILL HATE TO TELL HER HOW KANG TRIED TO KILL HER TO KEEP HER SILENT." FLASH SAYS. DALE ADMITS, "I HAVE A FEELING THAT THOSE TWO SISTERS WILL WRECK YOU AND MONGO ..."



FLASH TELLS THE SWIFTLY RECOVERING GIRL HOW "DARLIA" IS WORKING LOYALLY IN ATOMIC HEADQUARTERS. POOR DARLIA FACES A TRAGIC CHOICE -- TO EXPOSE EVILA WHO'S MASQUERADING UNDER HER NAME, OR TO LET EVILA'S TREACHERY DELIVER MONGO'S ATOM-WEAPONS TO KANG.



MEANTIME EVILA HAS WON ATOM LAB CHIEF GIAN AS HER SLAVE. "YOU'LL BE MY QUEEN, DARLIA. I'LL BRING THE ATOM-WEAPONS HERE THAT WILL PUT US BOTH ON MONGO'S THRONE ...!"



GIAN, HIMSELF, LOADS A POWER-TRUCK WITH THE LABORATORY'S MOST ADVANCED ATOM-WEAPONS. "THESE SUPERSONIC-SPEED ROCKETS DO EVERYTHING BUT THINK, AS THEY HUNT DOWN THEIR TARGETS."



AN ATOM GUARD HALTS THE CAR LEAVING THE LABORATORY: "WHY, IT'S THE CHIEF, GIAN, HIMSELF." AN MBI MAN SAYS, "I'LL HAVE TO MAKE A ROUTINE REPORT ON THIS TRANSFER OF WEAPONS, SIR."



GIAN TAKES A ROUNDABOUT ROUTE AND SLIPS INTO DARLIA'S GARAGE: "DARLIA, BE SURE TO INTERCEPT THAT MBI SPY'S REPORT AND DESTROY IT!" EVILA SMILES: "OF COURSE, GIAN, DEAR ... SHOW ME HOW THESE THINGS WORK, YOU WONDERFUL MAN!"

NEXT WEEK
COUNTER
SPY

FLASH GORDON

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"WE'LL JUST GUARD YOU HERE, EVILA, AND MAKE SURE KANG DOESN'T HURT YOU," FLASH PROMISES. DARLIA SMILES, "AND MAKE SURE I DON'T HELP KANG -- FLASH CAN YOU BRING MY SISTER HERE -- WITHOUT TELLING HER ABOUT IT FIRST?"



IN HER SCHEME TO END EVILA'S TREACHERY WITHOUT BETRAYING HER, DARLIA PRETENDS UNCONSCIOUSNESS AS THE MASQUERADER IS BROUGHT INTO THE ROOM. EVILA HAS A FEARFUL SHOCK AT SEEING THE SISTER SHE THOUGHT KANG HAD KILLED: "OH!... FLASH, COULD YOU LEAVE US ALONE, TO... TALK?"



AS DARLIA HAD FORESEEN, EVILA TRIES TO KILL HER SISTER. BUT DARLIA IS NOT SLEEPING...



NEITHER GIRL DARES MAKE A SOUND IN THE DESPERATE SILENT STRUGGLE. EVILA'S HEAD STRIKES A METAL STAND AND SHE CRUMPLES, UNCONSCIOUS



DARLIA QUICKLY CHANGES CLOTHES WITH EVILA KNOWING HER SISTER WILL BE TREATED WELL BUT GUARDED JUST AS WELL. "I MUST FIND OUT WHAT EVILA WAS PLOTTING WITH KANG THE CRUEL! I'LL TAKE HER PLACE!"



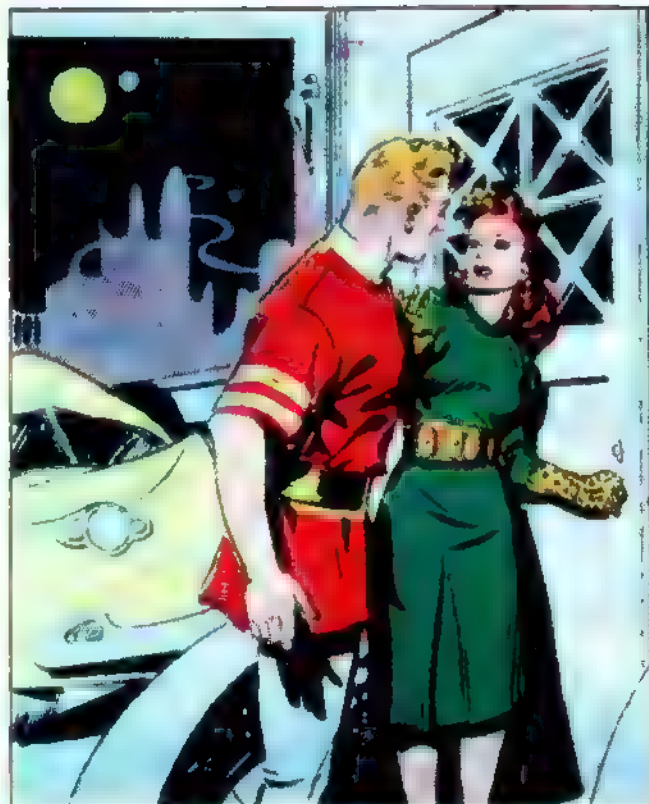
"POOR EVILA. THE SHOCK WAS TOO MUCH FOR HER. BE SURE TO WATCH HER -- DON'T LET HER DO ANYTHING RASH," DARLIA URGES. FLASH PROMISES AND ESCORTS DARLIA BACK TO HER HOME -- WHERE KANG AND GRISOM SECRETLY AWAIT EVILA'S RETURN!

1-27-46

NEXT WEEK: CONSPIRACY

FLASH GORDON

Registered U. S. Patent Office



"SHALL I COME IN AND MAKE SURE EVERYTHING'S SAFE?" FLASH OFFERS GALLANTLY "NO NO! IT'S QUITE SAFE FOR ME!" DARLIA SAYS IN PANIC, FEARING FLASH MIGHT BE KILLED BY THE AMBUSHED KANG



KANG IS WAITING INSIDE: "SO FLASH IS ESCORTING YOU EVILA! CLEVER OF YOU TO WIN HIS CONFIDENCE--OR ARE YOU FOOL ENOUGH TO DREAM YOU CAN DOUBLE CROSS ME--AND LIVE?"



GIAN ENTERS UNEXPECTEDLY: "BY TALUS' FIST, WHAT'S KANG DOING HERE, DARLIA? ARE YOU PLOTTING WITH HIM?" DARLIA GUESSES HER TWIN SISTER HAS BEEN VAMPING THE ATOM SCIENTIST. "WHY, GIAN I-- PLEASE, DEAR-- I WOULDN'T..."



CRAFTY KANG GAMBLE'S ON GIAN'S CONCEPT: "I COME AS A HUMBLE BEGGAR, GIAN. LET ME HELP YOU OVERTHROW FLASH, SO YOU CAN TAKE HIS THRONE. TODAY THE SCIENTIST IS KING!" GIAN, STUPEFIED OUTSIDE HIS WORK, SWALLOWS THE BAIT!



"AND NOW EV--DARLIA, HURRY BACK TO YOUR JOB IN FLASH'S PALACE AND COVER UP GIAN'S TAKING THE ATOM-WEAPONS." KANG WARNS. GIAN CLAIMS A PARTING KISS, A SACRIFICE DARLIA MUST PAY.

DARLIA BLUNDERINGLY TAKES OVER EVILA'S WORK. "YOU ACT STRANGE, DARLIA. WHAT'S WORRYING YOU?" FLASH DEMANDS. DARLIA HIDES THE MBI REPORT ON GIAN'S TRUCKLOAD OF ATOM WEAPONS. WHAT SHALL SHE DO?



NEXT WEEK: TREACHERY TRAIL.

FLASH GORDON

Registered U. S. Patent Office



DARLIA LETS THE MBI REPORT REACH FLASH. HE SENDS FOR THE MBI CHIEF: "DICTO, GIAN TOOK ATOM WEAPONS FROM THE LAB. WITH KANG STILL FREE, MONGO'S FATE'S AT STAKE. GIAN IS MAD OR A TRAITOR!"

IN GIAN'S LABORATORY, DALE DIVERTS HIS ATTENTION -- ALL TOO EASY FOR SUCH AN ATTRACTIVE GIRL -- WHILE FLASH SWITCHES GIAN'S ATOM GUN FOR ONE ESPECIALLY PREPARED BY DICTO.

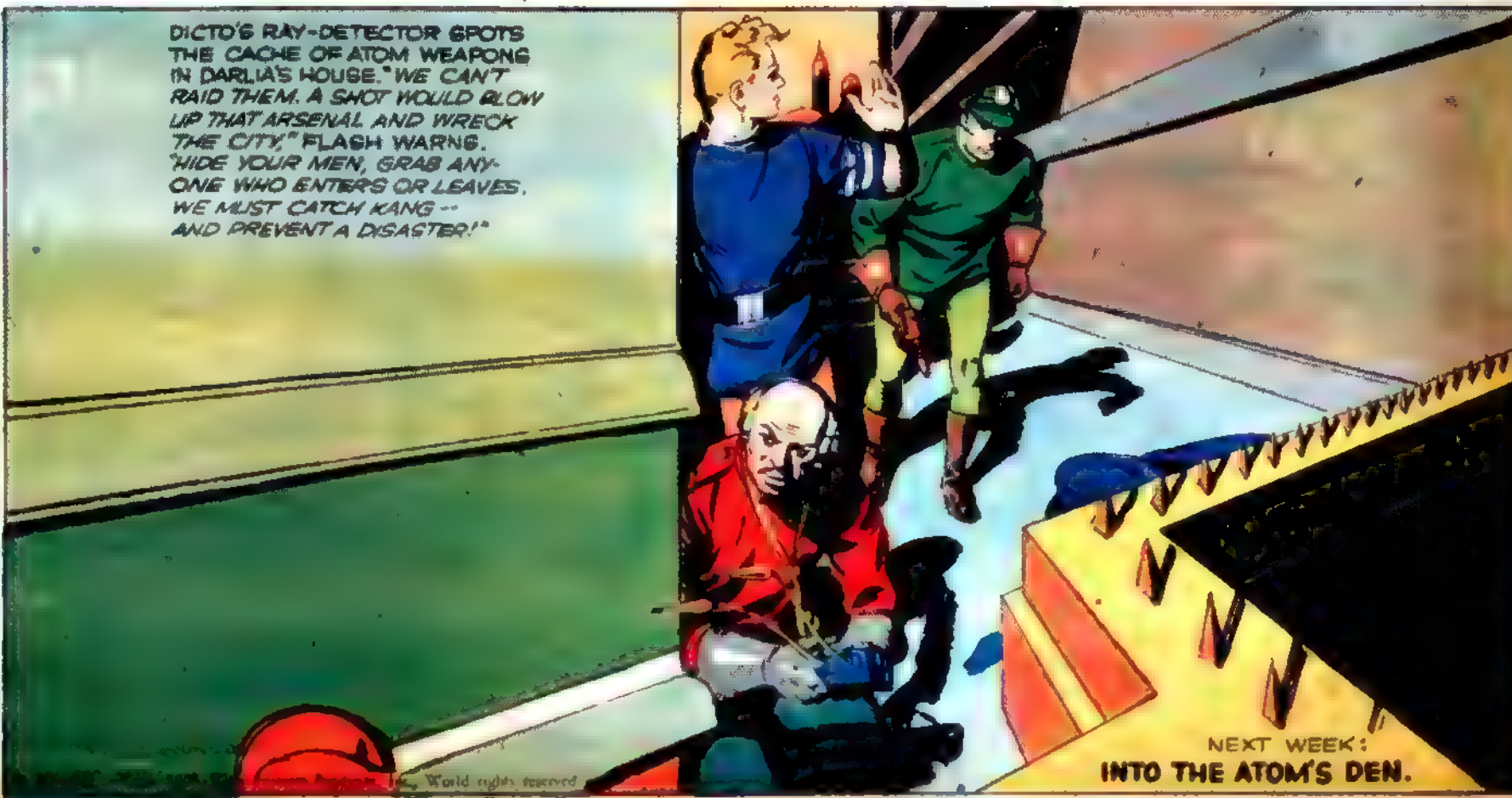


FLASH AND DICTO IN A SILENCED ROTOR-ROCKET PERSONALLY LEAD THE MBI SHADOWS WHO FOLLOW THE TRAIL OF GIAN'S NEW GUN, A CUNNINGLY DISGUISED MICRO-WAVE RADIO TRANSMITTER.



"HE'S SLIPPING INTO DARLIA'S GARAGE!" DICTO SNAPS. FLASH IS SADDENED: "I COULDN'T BELIEVE SHE WAS A TRAITRESS. DALE WAS RIGHT ABOUT HER!"

DICTO'S RAY-DETECTOR SPOTS THE CACHE OF ATOM WEAPONS IN DARLIA'S HOUSE. "WE CAN'T RAID THEM. A SHOT WOULD BLOW UP THAT ARSENAL AND WRECK THE CITY," FLASH WARNS. "HIDE YOUR MEN, GRAB ANYONE WHO ENTERS OR LEAVES. WE MUST CATCH KANG -- AND PREVENT A DISASTER!"



NEXT WEEK:
INTO THE ATOM'S DEN.

FLASH GORDON

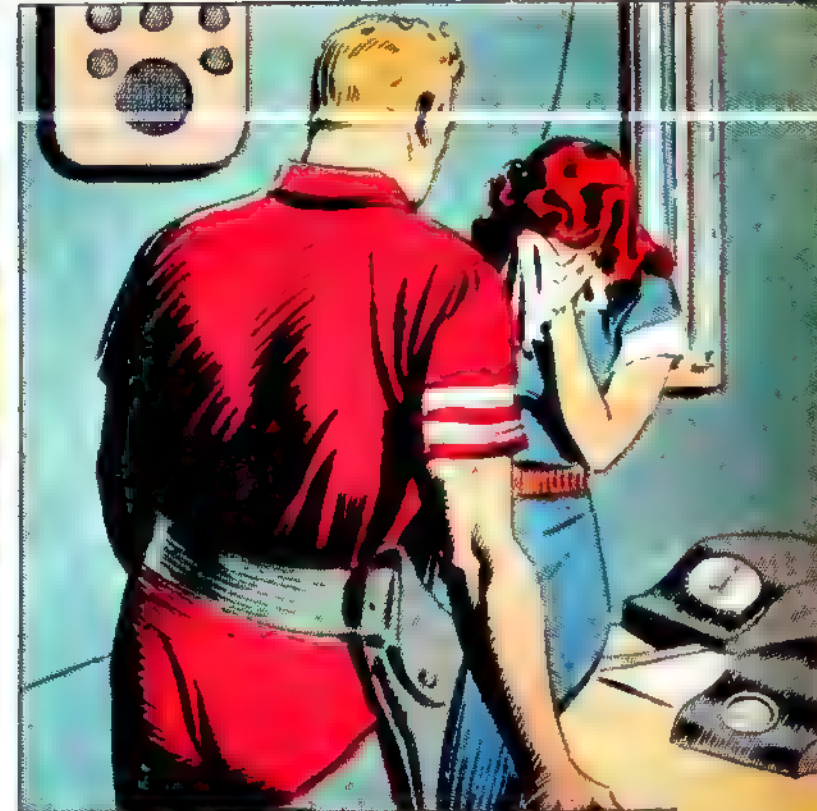
Registered U. S. Patent 1,786,444



EVILA, HELD IN SAFE-KEEPING THROUGH HER SISTER DARLIA'S CLEVERNESS, ATTACKS HER GUARD. "I MUST WARN KANG. NOTHING WILL KEEP ME FROM BECOMING EMPRESS OF MONGO!"



SHE RECKLESSLY MAKES HER WAY ALONG A NARROW LEDGE OUTSIDE THE PALACE WINDOW- BUT HER MAD GAMBLE FOR POWER CRUMBLES LIKE THE MASONRY



FLASH SUSPECTS DARLIA OF TREACHERY, HIDING KANG IN HER HOUSE BUT HE'S GENTLE AND SYMPATHETIC IN TELLING HER: "I HAVE TRAGIC NEWS FOR YOU. EVILA TRIED TO ESCAPE--AND FELL TO HER DEATH!"



"MAYBE SHE TALKED TO SAVE HERSELF, GUESSING THAT WE ALREADY KNOW," DICTO WARNS. DALE ADDS, "IT'S A WOMAN'S TRICK, FLASH.. DON'T TRUST HER. LOOK HER UP THAT PASSAGE MAY BE A TRAP!"



ORDERING DARLIA WATCHED, FLASH LEADS A PICKED GROUP INTO THE TUNNEL TO THE ATOM PIRATES' HIDEOUT: "IF IT'S A TRAP, I'LL TAKE ALL THE RISKS I ASK MY MEN TO FACE."



NEXT WEEK:
KANG'S TRAP

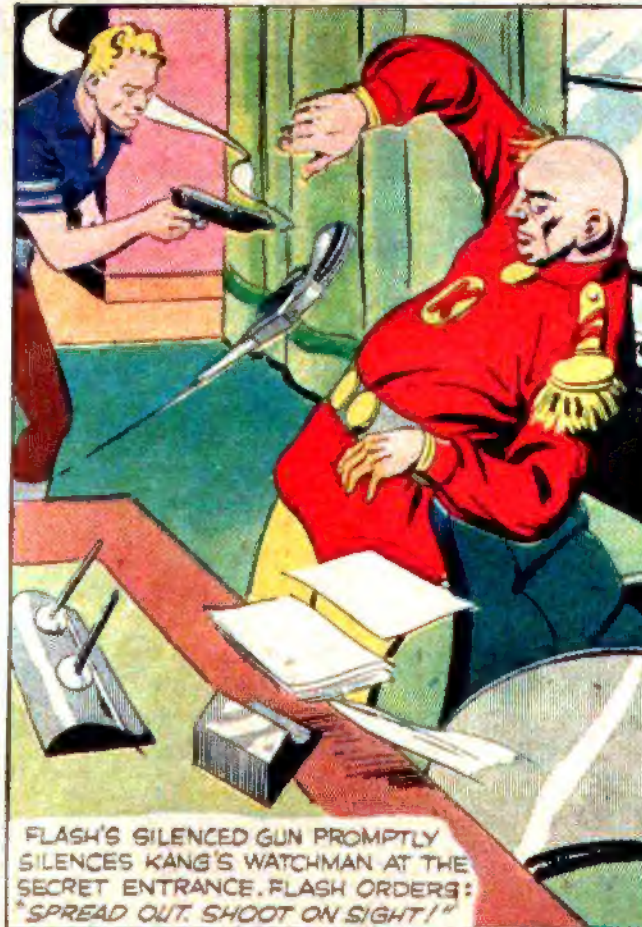
"POOR EVILA HAS PAID FOR HER MISTAKES I WANT THE OTHERS TO PAY TOO!" DARLIA SOBS "KANG AND GRUSOM ARE MEETING IN MY HOUSE, AND GIAN IS A TRAITOR BRINGING THEM ATOM WEAPONS! THERE'S A SECRET ENTRANCE -!"

FLASH GORDON

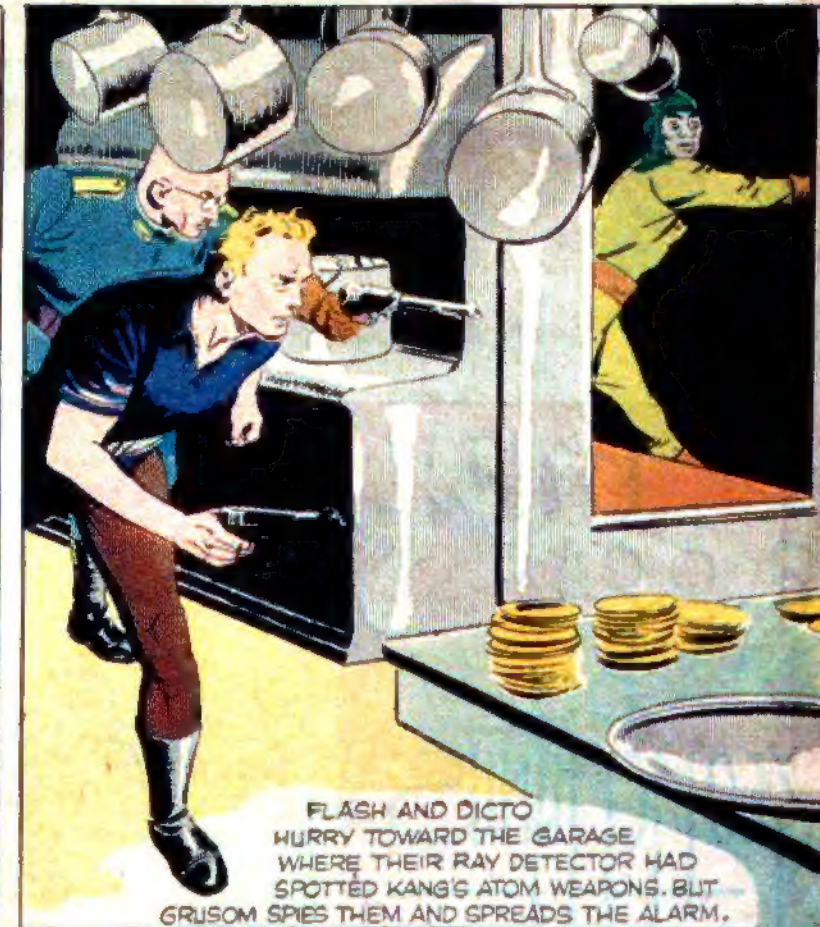
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AT THE SECRET PANEL OF KANG'S HIDEOUT, FLASH WARNS: "USE THE OLD-FASHIONED BULLET GUNS. OUR ATOM GUNS AND RAY PISTOLS WOULD START A CHAIN REACTION IN KANG'S ATOM ARSENAL AND BLOW UP THE WHOLE CITY!"



FLASH'S SILENCED GUN PROMPTLY SILENCES KANG'S WATCHMAN AT THE SECRET ENTRANCE. FLASH ORDERS: "SPREAD OUT. SHOOT ON SIGHT!"



FLASH AND DICTO HURRY TOWARD THE GARAGE WHERE THEIR RAY DETECTOR HAD SPOTTED KANG'S ATOM WEAPONS. BUT GRUSOM SPIES THEM AND SPREADS THE ALARM.

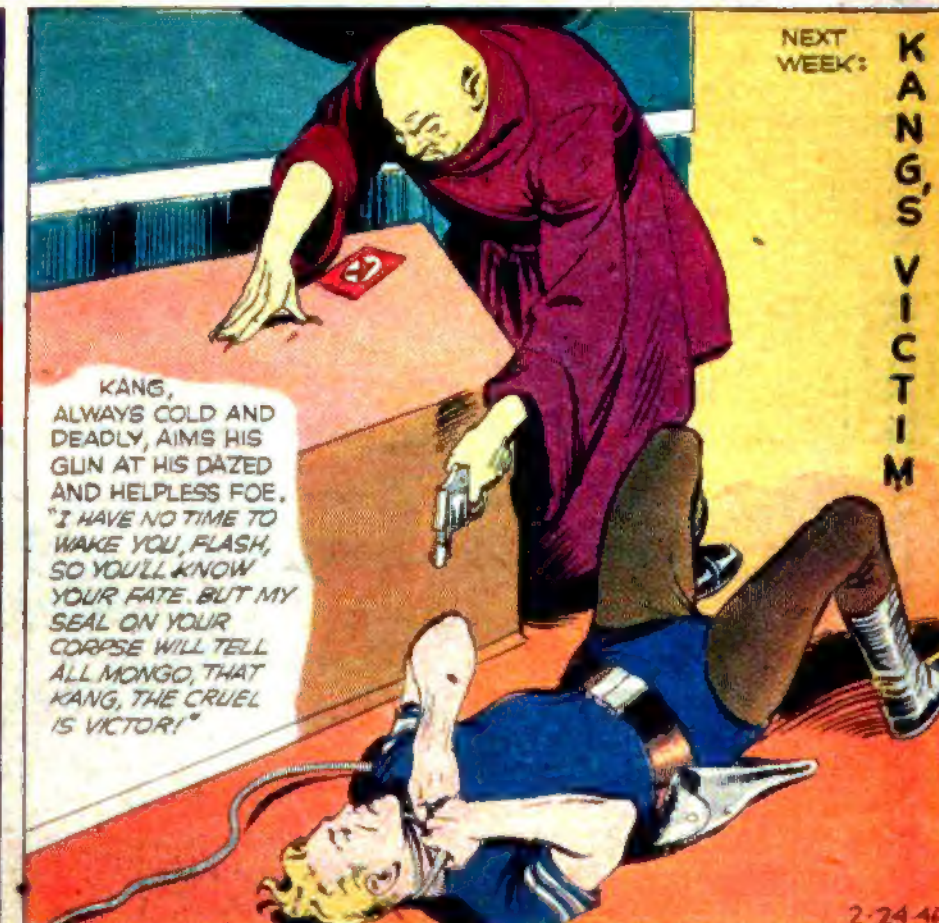


THE RAMP LEADING DOWN TO THE GARAGE IS A TRAP. GIAN'S FLAME GUN ENDS THE BRILLIANT CAREER OF MBI CHIEF DICTO. AND GRUSOM'S WHIP LASSO THROTTLES THE MIGHTY FLASH, HIMSELF!

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FIGHTING BRAVELY, EVEN IN THE MISTS OF NEAR UNCONSCIOUSNESS, FLASH FIRES ONCE. GRUSOM PAYS FOR HIS CRIMES



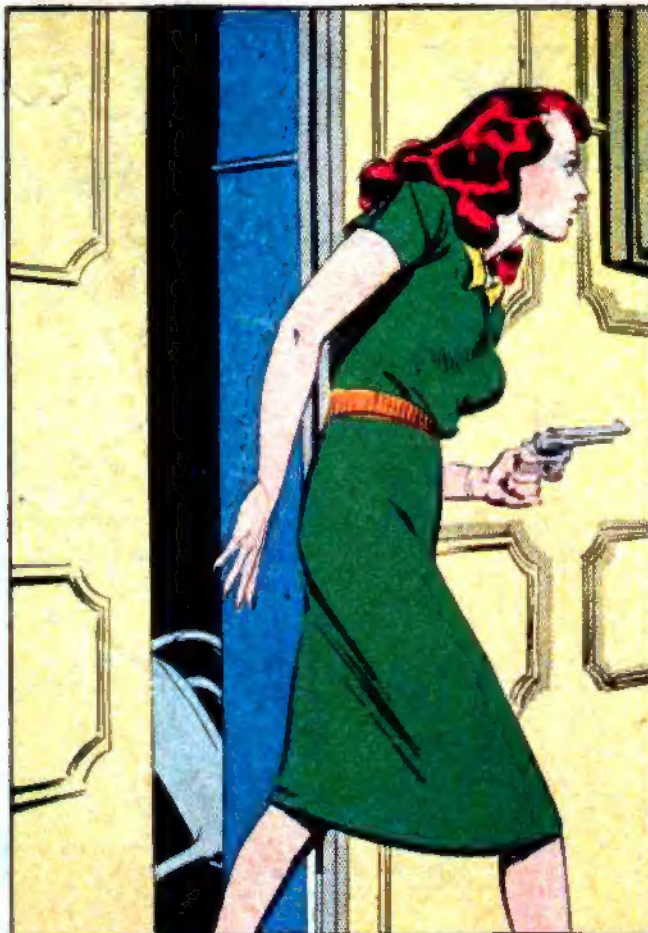
KANG, ALWAYS COLD AND DEADLY, AIMS HIS GUN AT HIS DAZED AND HELPLESS FOE. "I HAVE NO TIME TO WAKE YOU, FLASH, SO YOU'LL KNOW YOUR FATE. BUT MY SEAL ON YOUR CORPSE WILL TELL ALL MONGO, THAT KANG, THE CRUEL IS VICTORY!"

NEXT WEEK:

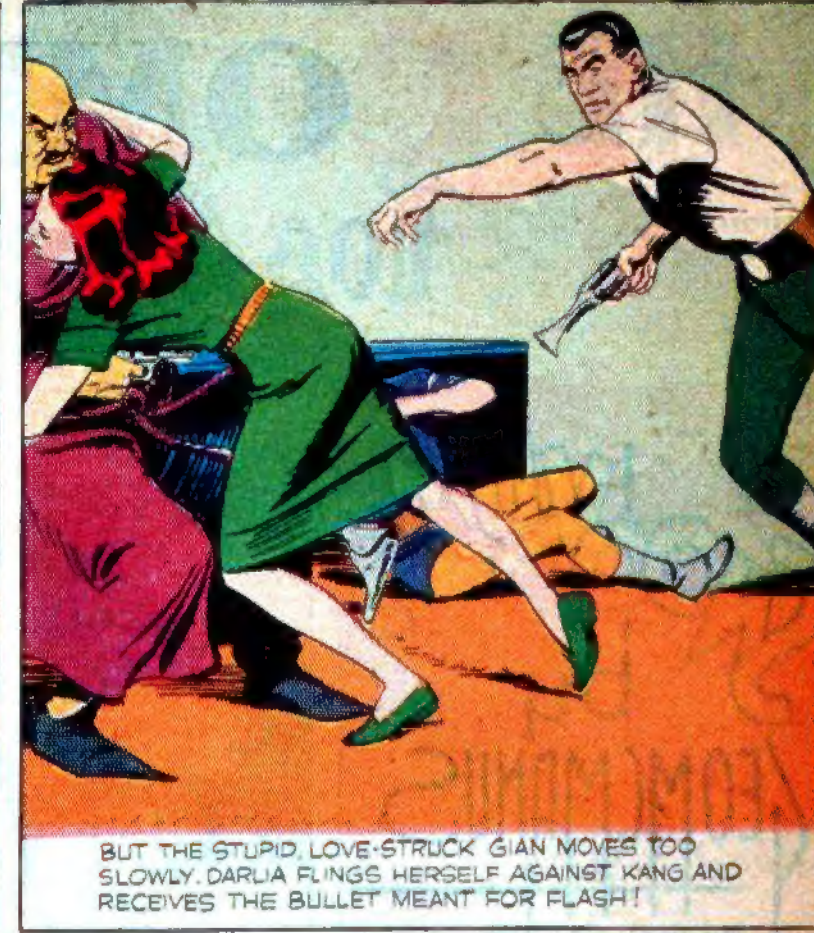
KANG'S VICTIM

FLASH GORDON

Registered U. S. Patent Office.



DARLIA ESCAPES FROM HER GUARDS AND TAKES THE SECRET PASSAGE INTO HER HOUSE, WHERE MBI MEN ARE SHOOTING ON SIGHT. SHE BURSTS IN ON A GHASTLY SCENE: "STOP, KANG, YOU CAN'T KILL A HELPLESS MAN!" KANG STEADILY SQUEEZES THE TRIGGER, SNARLING, "SILENCE THAT FOOL WOMAN, GIAN."



BUT THE STUPID, LOVE-STRUCK GIAN MOVES TOO SLOWLY. DARLIA FLINGS HERSELF AGAINST KANG AND RECEIVES THE BULLET MEANT FOR FLASH!



FLASH'S MBI MEN ARRIVE TOO LATE TO SAVE DARLIA. BUT KANG AND GIAN HAVE TO FLEE, SHUTTING A HEAVY DOOR TO DELAY PURSUIT.

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"POOR DARLIA--YOU SACRIFICED YOURSELF TO SAVE ME," FLASH SAYS. "GLAD, FLASH, IT'S WORTH IT, TO SAVE YOU AND MONGO FROM KANG!"



IN THE BESIEGED GARAGE KANG ENTERS THE ROCKET SHIP THEY HAD LOADED WITH THE STOLEN ATOM WEAPONS: "GIAN, YOU AND I WILL CONQUER MONGO YET--AND DESTROY FLASH GORDON!"

NEXT WEEK:
**RUNAWAY
ROCKET**

FLASH GORDON

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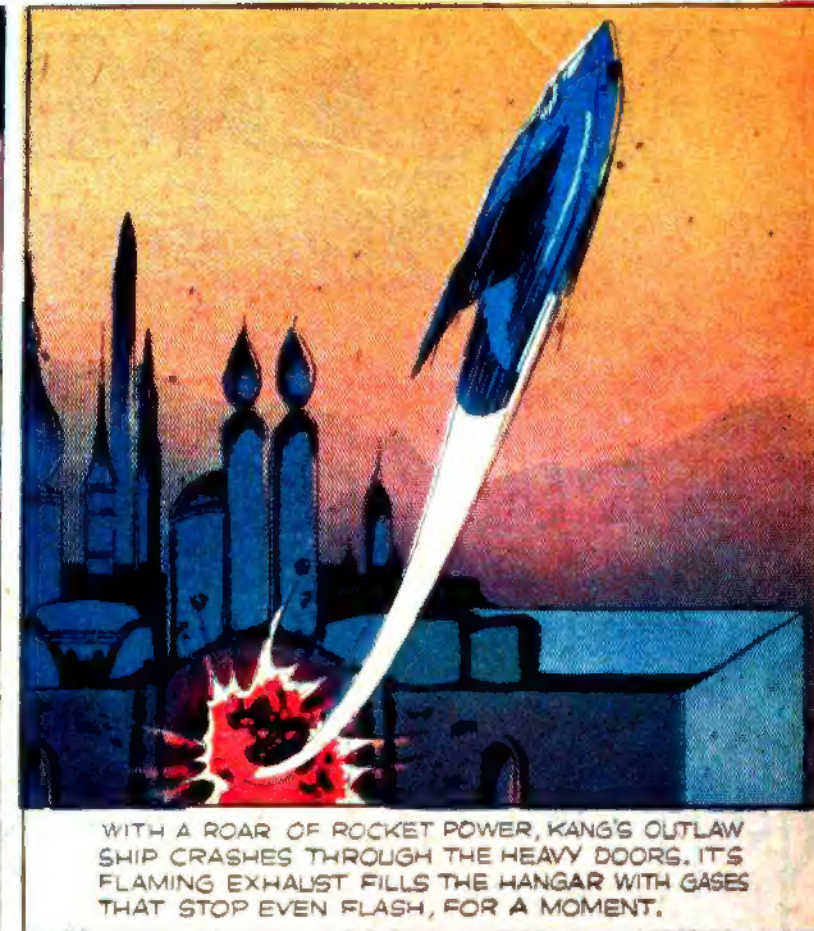


FLASH HELPS HIS MEN BLAST OPEN THE DOOR THAT BARS THEM FROM KANG'S HIDEOUT!

"HURRY AND CATCH HIM -- BUT CAREFUL -- DON'T EXPLODE HIS ATOM WEAPONS!!!"

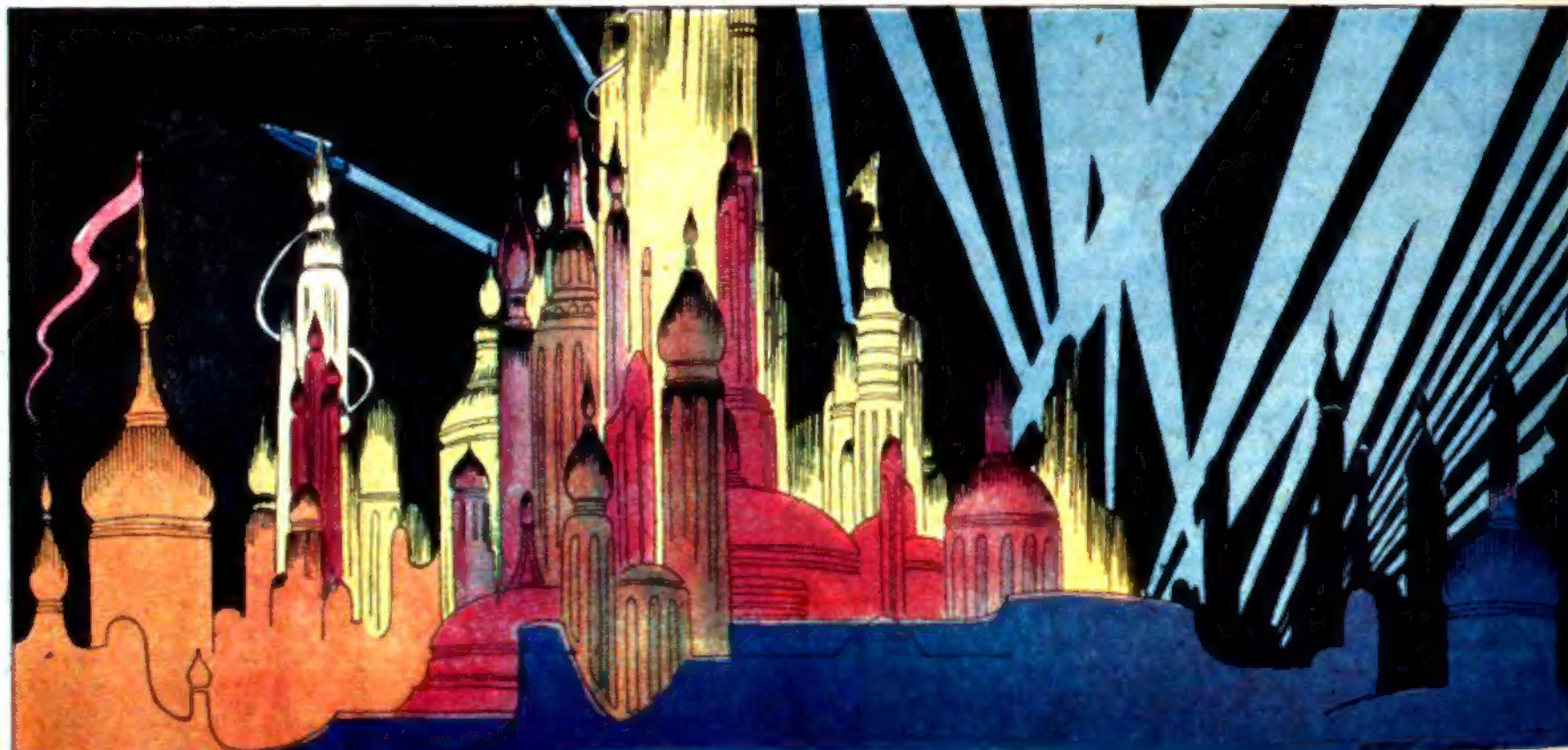


"WE'RE TRAPPED -- WE DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO OPEN THE OUTSIDE DOORS!" GIAN GASPS, BUT KANG SAYS, COLDLY, "WE'LL TRY TO ROCKET THROUGH THEM. IF WE CRASH, OUR ATOM REACTION WILL TAKE FLASH GORDON TO BLAZES WITH US!"



WITH A ROAR OF ROCKET POWER, KANG'S OUTLAW SHIP CRASHES THROUGH THE HEAVY DOORS. ITS FLAMING EXHAUST FILLS THE HANGAR WITH GASES THAT STOP EVEN FLASH, FOR A MOMENT.

FLASH ORDERS INSTANT PURSUIT, "DON'T SHOOT YET -- WAIT TILL IT'S FARTHER AWAY. IT'S SO LOADED WITH ATOM WEAPONS THAT THE EXPLOSION WOULD DESTROY ALL OF MINGO CITY!"



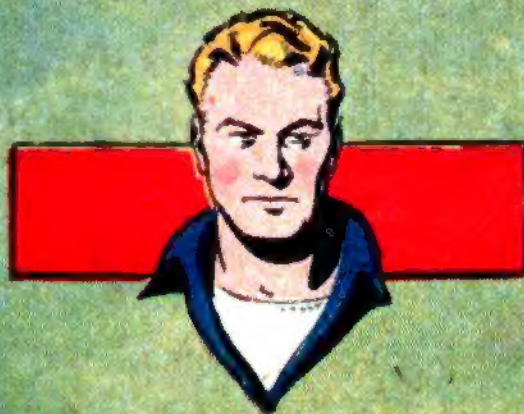
KANG GETS A FATAL HEAD START -- WHILE FLASH'S AIR FORCE AND RADAR NETWORKS LEAD TO TRAP THE OUTLAW EMPEROR, RIDING HIS FLYING BOMB TO CONQUEST OR RUIN.

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LAND OF STRANGE
ADVENTURE.

FLASH GORDON

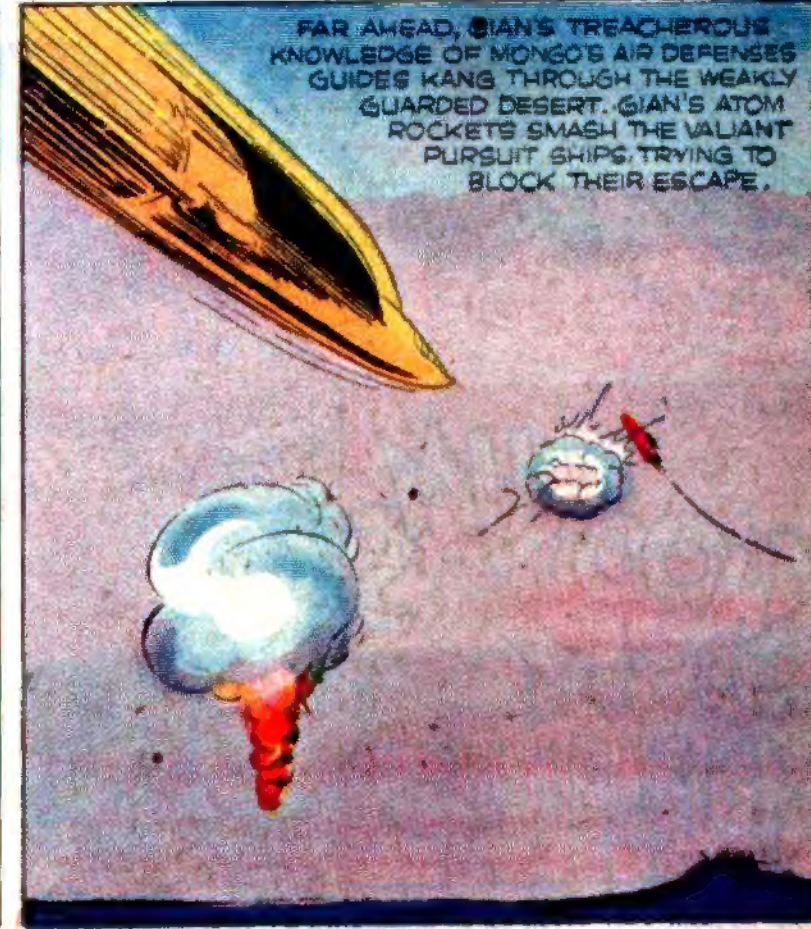
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FLASH BROADCASTS SWIFT ORDERS, AS HE RACES TO THE NEAREST ROCKET FIELD: "RADAR TRACKERS, DON'T LOSE KANG'S ROCKET... CALLING ALL PLANES... DESTROY KANG AND SAVE OUR PLANET!"



"I'M FOLLOWING KANG MYSELF, ZARKOV, TAKE OVER MONGO AS VICE-PRESIDENT," FLASH SAYS ON THE RUN. DALE FOLLOWS HIM; "I'M COMING WITH YOU-- SO YOU WON'T THROW YOUR LIFE AWAY RECKLESSLY!"



FAR AHEAD, GIAN'S TREACHEROUS KNOWLEDGE OF MONGO'S AIR DEFENSES GUIDES KANG THROUGH THE WEAKLY GUARDED DESERT. GIAN'S ATOM ROCKETS SMASH THE VALIANT PURSUIT SHIPS, TRYING TO BLOCK THEIR ESCAPE.



IN MONGO'S FASTEST ATOM POWER ROCKET, FLASH CLOSES IN ON KANG, BUT HIS RADAR CONFIRMS THE GROUND NETWORK'S REPORT: "THE MADMAN IS HEADING INTO THE WILDERNESS OF VALKR, WHERE DEATH STORMS SMASH OUR ROCKETS AND BLOCK OUR RADAR!"



"IF KANG CAN GET THROUGH, SO CAN WE. YOU CAN'T TURN BACK ON MY ACCOUNT, FLASH. WE MUST END THIS THREAT TO OUR WORLD," DALE SAYS. FLASH FEELS A SURGE OF PRIDE: "GOOD GIRL!--PILOT, FULL SPEED AHEAD!"



THE ILL-FAMED "DEATH STORMS" FILL THE SKY. FLASH TAKES THE WHEEL, BUT NOT EVEN HIS SKILL CAN CONQUER SHEET LIGHTNING AND HURRICANE. THE CRIPPLED ROCKET TWISTS DOWNWARD TO THE UNMAPPED WILDERNESS OF VALKR.

NEXT WEEK: THE STORM QUEEN.